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**From:** [Citizen Name/Ex. 6]  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 8:24:09 PM  
**Subject:** Superfund needed to keep us from a more disastrous release of contamination  
[aaaaanimus.jpg](#)

**I read the story about the Animas River spill with interest. find story at: When our river turned orange Nine things you need to know about the Animas River mine waste spill.**

<http://www.hcn.org/articles/when-our-river-turned-orange-animas-river-spill>

**I realize this is a different mess than ours here in Yerington but the arguments on why it was kept off the NPL are the same.**

**What will happen if we get the 100 year storm event or an earthquake causing serious releases of contamination on the site?**

**I would hope people shudder to think of the the things that could potentially create a much bigger mess here.**

**I hope the powers that be do not wait for a disaster but will wake up and support getting the needed funds to cleanup the site now.**

[Citizen Name/Ex. 6]

**• Superfund has long been on the table, and long been swept off:** As mining waned in the late 1980s, federal and state

regulatory agencies started looking at how to clean up the mess. Superfund, which comes with a big pile of cash, seemed like the obvious approach. But locals feared that the stigma would destroy tourism along with any possibility of mining's return. Besides, Superfund can be blunt; the complex Animas situation demanded a more surgical, locally-based approach. So the [Animas River Stakeholders Group](#), a collaboration between concerned citizens and representatives from industry and federal and state agencies, was created in 1994 to address the situation. The approach was successful, at first, but then water quality began deteriorating again. The specter of Superfund returned. Many locals, worried about impacts to property values and tourism, have again resisted. Sunnyside Gold Corp. (see below) has offered millions of dollars to further cleanup efforts -- as long as there's no Superfund designation.

If initial public reaction is any indication, the disaster has woken Durangoans up not only to how

important the river is, but also to what's been going on upstream. And they're likely to exert

whatever pressure they can on their neighbors up in Silverton to accept, even embrace, Superfund

and a comprehensive cleanup effort. They speak from experience: Durango was the site of a massive

federal cleanup of a uranium tailings pile in the early 1990s, and tourism and property values did just fine. Moab, Utah, another tourism mecca, is currently in the middle of a similar cleanup. The hordes of visitors mostly seem oblivious to it. Such is not the case, however, with our Tang-hued river.